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ASHLAND, Ohio, May 30, 1888.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the German Baptists, held last week at North Manchester, Ind., was a success in many respects. The attendance was large, the weather pleasant and the work passed off with more than usual quietness.

The departure of Eld. James Quinter impressed the delegates with a feeling of solemnity which lasted through the meeting, and no wonder it did. The spot which his knees covered in his last prayer was right before their eyes, and his familiar form was carried away in death from their midst. In the report of the meeting is an account of his life and departure.

The meeting has lost none of its conservative character. This was shown when the question about the church name came up for a hearing. It was promptly voted to allow the name remain as it was.

The subject of secret societies was also before the convention, and it was deferred. It is reported that there are many members in Iowa who belong to such societies, and the meeting avoided the responsibility of taking a stand upon the subject.

The conference has some new features in the way of reports of committees, and outside of this line of work, we cannot see of what earthly or heavenly use the A. M. is.

Seeking the Truth.

In an article somewhere in this office, awaiting publication, the statement is made that the writer has freed himself from dependence upon customs and the explanations of others in knowing what the scriptures contain and has gone to work in earnest to study the good book itself for a knowledge of what it contains. This is a good resolve. There are thousands who turn themselves away with the conclusion that what is customarily believed by his friends is all right, or he takes it for granted that the minister he admires has it all right.

To say the least this is a dangerous practice. The individual has no assurance than in the mere appearance of things that he is right. All men should seek a knowledge of the scriptures by their own investigation with the aid of such other knowledge as may be at their command. There

is safety in knowing that the Word teaches what you believe and advocate.

Hard Times And Pride.

It is everywhere felt that there is not as much prosperity in money matters as there used to be, and it is difficult to find employment in many places and to gather enough of the "indispensable" to pass along smoothly. It therefore should become a study how to best live and be happy.

One of the ways is to live plainly. Dispense with the thousand follies which do the body no good, starve the soul and endanger the prospects of entering into the kingdom of heaven. Look at your dress and soberly consider how much is necessary for your comfort. Consider how much expense you make which returns you no kind of interest on the investment, and decide that you will live closer to the rules of business principles and the law of God. A righteous life is a very economical life so far as bodily adornment reaches. Adornment of the soul is foremost and that does not cost so much and yields healthy and paying interest.

Lay aside the trifles in dress.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The report of the Old Order yearly meeting will be published next week. A report of the Brethren Convention in Maryland will also be published next week. Only a part of the copy has been sent in, and it will all be put in one number.

The Apostle brands those who will not provide for their own household as worse than infidels. That scripture not only applies to a man's wife and children, but his parents and brethren, and to sisters too. In the day those words were written the church took care of its poor, and any one who idled away his life and expected that the church would take care of his sick mother, and feeble father, and crippled sister, wife or child was guilty of denying the faith. It would seem that the sin was unpardonable. Denied the faith and worse than an infidel is a very strong expression. He is unfit to associate with the company of the redeemed.

The Reformed church in Pennsylvania is educating several Japanese students, who are to become missionaries of that church.

The Convention in Maryland is reported as having been a grand success. We are pleased to hear this and glad to know that the workers therein went home greatly strengthened.

"Depend upon God and one another" is the motto that should guide every one in his religious work. A thousand times more can be accomplished for Christ, and every one will have more glory and honor and even worldly prosperity than if each individual undertakes to run every thing and falls in running nothing.

Miami Valley Items.

Bro. Wampler's announcement last week, that we could get the fare to S. S. Convention and return, seemed to awaken quite a little ripple of excitement in favor of Sunday School conventions.

But, Brethren, we must bear in mind that there would be no such rates unless 250 tickets were sold.

Somehow our arrangements are not what they should be, or we are losing interest in these matters, or there is something the matter.

A few of us were trying to work up this matter so as to get a good attendance and thus insure low rates. We spoke to several prominent brethren about going down to Fairview. Their replies were both discouraging and dissatisfactory. One was

afraid he did not have the time to spare, another was afraid the money would be hard to get, then one had some other excuse, and this kind of thing went on until we had very few promises. Now how, in the name of common sense, can any poor soul go and make arrangements for reduced fare under such discouraging experiences.

There is promise of but very few from the North-eastern part of the state. Why is this?

I surely cannot help but think that this convention ought to be taken advantage of as a time of general handshaking and love-making.

We are either losing our love for the church, or our willingness to sacrifice and deny ourselves a little, or we are becoming so overwhelmingly selfish and indifferent that we care very little about religion. Now Brethren, these are stubborn facts, and they are getting worse and worse each year.

If we have no more love for God and the cause than this, how can we expect the great Benefactor to smile on us and the cause to prosper if we do not go to work.

The local church where the convention is held, with a few, sometimes very few, members from abroad, about constitute the great S. S. convention of the Brethren Church for the state of Ohio. And if it were not for the young people who like to go to such places to show their new dresses and have a good time, and who generally belong to no church, but they come and swell the numbers, and give it a respectable appearance, the S. S. Convention would have been snowed under long ago.

I remember some four and five years ago that we had good attendance. Many good, useful, zealous brethren were always to be met at such places then, that we seldom meet now.

We thank God that the church of the living God does not always depend upon wayward, changeable, spasmodic men for her success. The grand old cause is well buttressed by the everlasting promises of the Almighty. And his everlasting arms encircle and support the whole structure. No, if the welfare of the church depended on the one-day-hot-and-the-next-day-cold, jerky kind of Christians, she would have received such a series of scorchings and freezings that would have killed her long ago. It is the common, every-day-alike kind of fellows, that are always ready to put their shoulders to the wheel, that push things through. Very often they get little pay and no end of abuse for what they do.

But, Brethren, in all soberness and earnestness, we ought to have a good turnout this year. Remember the Fairview church is rather weak, numerically, and a little boom from us now, would do the Brethren cause of that locality untold good. A little sacrifice from about 200 of the brethren and sisters would accomplish all that could be looked for or accomplished. Then the sacrifice is so little. A little, very little at that, of filthy lucre, a little time from our labor, and it is all told. So now let us get at it and do it.

Year after year we are called upon to ask for reduced rates, and before we can get them we

have to promise something to the railroad companies. So often we have felt ashamed of the small patronage and attendance, that we do not feel like undertaking the task any more. It looks as if we were a set of babies and had no ambition or get up about us.

However I hope that this will be an exceptionable year. And that all that has been said of the wonderful one and three eights will come true, in our case at least.

Bro. Brown went up to Pleasant Hill, Ohio, according to promise, and did a noble work that will be reported in the future.

Bro. Brown is getting old, and financially, we cannot call him a wealthy man, and it is quite a task for a man to carry over 300 pounds of human flesh with him wherever he goes, and yet with all this, there is no one that sacrifices any more, both in trouble, comfort and filthy lucre, in the whole brotherhood than he. If we just had a few more hundred men of Bro. Brown's calibre, avoirdupois, grit and zeal, things would move along and have some weight to them.

Very little of Bro. Brown's work ever sees daylight in the shape that will bring him any glory in this life. It is only a few of his very close and intimate friends that know what our old brother has done for the cause. However the assurance of heaven is more than comfort for what we fail to get here in the shape of credit. God will give us with heavy interest in eternity.

Last Sunday, the 20th, we were all startled with the news of the very sudden death of Elder James Quinter.

So serving the church of his choice to the last, he was called to his rest. Whatever may have been the differences of opinion that separated us here, we cannot allow them to go beyond the grave.

And everyone who knew Bro. Quinter, outside of the differences that schism brought about, respected his earnest, zealous, Christian spirit. Many are the reminiscences that rush through the memory, as I call back the few associations we had with the departed brother.

Here, then, while our hearts are still tender with sympathy, so that kindly, generous thoughts seem to come unbidden to the soul, we want to give in our tribute of respect and testimony for the high standard of Christianity that characterized the departed.

Many and many times did he champion moderation when the annual conference was inclined to be radical and despotic in her rulings.

Although he remained with the general body, yet he was an advocate of progression, and in the silence of his heart antagonized the unprogressive, superstitious and ignorant notions of the old church. He opposed uniformity by non-conformity to the order of the church, and by remaining severely silent on the subject.

The official life of Elder Quinter was free from the many cruel, and unchristian acts that disgraced so many of his brother officers during the reign of terror. I can remember his conduct and bearing at my trial in Ashland, when there were eight elders present. I can remember,

so vividly the look that so plainly told of the astonishment and disgust that he felt over the proceedings.

As to the failings and weaknesses of the deceased, for did he not have any he would not be mortal, let us gently draw the curtains of charity and forever allow them to remain in the darkness.

On next Saturday, June 2nd, the love feast at Pleasant Hill, will be held. Cordial invitations are extended to "whosoever will."

EDWARD MASON.

Ripon, Cal.

On Thursday, May 10th, Bro. S. H. Bashor came to our place, and preached for us Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night, also Sunday morning at 11 a. m. We also had notice from sister Corda Bashor, that she would arrive here on the 11th. (I suppose it was a prearranged plan to meet here.) They look very natural, and it hardly seems like eight years this fall since they were here in California before. Sister Bashor met with quite a severe accident on her way up from Los Angeles. While the train was pulling in at Modesto she was watching out to see sister Mary Horner, to meet her at the train, when a cinder blew in her right eye, which soon became very painful. Of course we all done all we could in trying to get it out, but in vain. Sunday morning after church Mrs. Buchanan, our neighbor, came down and succeeded in getting it out.

On Saturday night, at 12:30 o'clock, Bro. Bashor took a severe attack of neuralgia of the chest and stomach. We administered to his wants as best we could, with such remedies as we had at command, until 4 o'clock when relief came. We gave up having any preaching at 11 a. m. Sunday, but when the time came he occupied the pulpit and preached to a full house. At 5 p. m. they took the train for Lathrop, where he was expected to preach at early candle lighting. We enjoyed their short stay with us very much. Hope they will arrange to meet here again in the near future.

In regard to the meeting, Bro. Bashor preached four sermons, which gave entire satisfaction. We know for ourselves that the "bread of life" was broken in such a way, and in such a manner as was never broken before. We hear such expressions as these: "that's the kind of preaching that does a body good," and "that's practical religion," and "Mr. Bashor! your preaching did me more good than any preaching I have heard for years." The Presbyterian minister that heard him Saturday night, said in his discourse Sunday evening, "I heard as good a sermon last night as ever I heard, and as good as I ever want to hear."

I never felt the force of the expression before, "he left too soon." May the Lord give him strength, that he may continue to work for the Master.

B. G. FREDERICK.

Virginia Notes.

The Convention of the two States, Maryland and Virginia, is now sitting at the College of St. James, Md. I had anticipated a good time and expected to formulate a complete system of evan-